Student Competitions and Awards

The following is a list of annual competitions and awards for UK undergraduate and postgraduate bioscience students. Prizes and closing dates vary, some are open to only to undergraduate or postgraduate students and some require a department or institution nominate a student. Please note; if you would like any further information on any of the competitions or awards listed in this document please contact the organisation organising the competition or award.

If you have details of any competitions or awards open to UK bioscience students you would like to add to the list please contact Katherine Clark at the UK Centre for Bioscience on k.a.clark@leeds.ac.uk

Competitions

Biotechnology YES (Young Entrepreneurs Scheme)
Open to: Postgraduates
A competition developed to raise awareness of the commercialisation of bioscience ideas among postgraduate students/postdoctoral scientists.
www.biotechnologyyes.co.uk/

Graduate Junction Poster Competition
Open to: Postgraduates
Design an A1 poster about your research, prizes are awarded for the best Social Sciences, Physical and Medical Science and Arts and Humanities poster.
www.graduatejunction.net/posters

International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition
Open to: Undergraduates
iGEM is an annual competition that encourages teams of undergraduate students to develop innovative synthetic biology projects based around biological building bricks, or 'BioBricks', in the same way that engineering students might develop a robot using standardised parts. http://2010.igem.org/Main_Page
Stipends for the competition are available from the Wellcome Trust, see www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/PhD-funding-and-undergraduate-opportunities/WTX056624.htm

International Student Awards
The International Student Award from the British Council celebrates the achievements of international students and their contributions to life in the UK.
www.educationuk.org/UK/Shine-2011-International-Student-Awards

Royal Entomological Society Student Award
Open to: Undergraduates and Postgraduates
Submit an article about an Entomological topic that would be of interest to the general public. The article to be easy to read, in a popular style and no longer than 800 words.
www.royensoc.co.uk/awards/RES_student_award.htm
Society for Endocrinology Undergraduate Essay Prize
Open to all students currently studying on an undergraduate course. The essay has to be endocrine-related and based on a topical aspect of endocrinology.
www.endocrinology.org/grants/prize_undergraduateessay.html

Society for Endocrinology Postgraduate Essay Prize
Open to all students registered for a higher degree in the UK or Ireland at the time of essay submission (e.g., a Masters course or research degree such as MPhil/PhD/MDRes or equivalent).
www.endocrinology.org/grants/prize_postgraduateessay.html

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Essay Competition
Open to: Undergraduates
Open to any undergraduate studying in the UK or Ireland, the essay must be about an aspect of reproductive biology and will be assessed on scientific content, style and topicality.
www.srfrproduction.org/education/essay.htm

UK Centre for Bioscience Student Award
Open to: Undergraduates and Postgraduates
An opportunity for UK bioscience students to express their opinions and discuss their experiences on an aspect of teaching and learning in bioscience higher education.
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/essay/

Awards

Anatomical Society Undergraduate Prize
This is awarded annually at the Winter Meeting of the Society to the best communication by a candidate who must have carried out the work described while an undergraduate.
www.anatsoc.org.uk/Awards.aspx

Botanical Society of Scotland Student Prize
Each year the Botanical Society of Scotland awards a prize to the final year student of a Scottish University who submits the best dissertation on a botanical investigation carried out during the course of their final year.
www.botanical-society-scotland.org.uk/content/botanical-society-scotland-student-prize

British Association of Psychopharmacology Undergraduate Abstract Prizes
Undergraduate Abstract Awards are awarded to the best psychopharmacology projects submitted to the society annual summer meeting by an undergraduate student. The Awards provide undergraduates with the experience of attending a national scientific meeting and encourage young psychopharmacologists to pursue a research active career.
www.bap.org.uk/awards.php?awardID=3

British Association for Sport and Exercise Science (BASES) Honorary Fellows Undergraduate Dissertation of the Year Award
An award for the best undergraduate dissertation by a UK final year undergraduate in the area of sport and/or exercise sciences. This may be in any of the following areas: biochemistry, biomechanics, kinesiology, motor learning and control, nutrition, physiology, psychology and sociology as they relate to sport and/or exercise and may encompass an interdisciplinary perspective.
www.bases.org.uk/Latest-News/BASES-Honorary-Fellows-Undergraduate-Dissertation-of-the-Year-Award

Available from the UK Centre for Bioscience
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/difflearn.aspx
British Graduate 100 Awards
Graduate 100 aims to "identify the recent graduates who are tipped to be the next generation of future leaders." All participants must be on their first-degree course on a full time basis at a university located within the United Kingdom.
www.graduate100.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=31

British Neuroscience Association Undergraduate and Postgraduate Awards
Each year, the BNA awards an undergraduate and a postgraduate prize to students considered to have made a significant contribution to neuroscience and to have achieved an outstanding performance in either their final examinations or in their viva voce respectively.
www.bna.org.uk/static/student-prizes.php

British Society for Immunology - Immunology Undergraduate Prizes
This scheme is intended both to promote excellence in the study of Immunology at undergraduate level, and to encourage gifted students to pursue further postgraduate study, or a career in Immunology.

Genetics Society - Sir Kenneth Mather Memorial Prize
Open to: Undergraduates and Postgraduates
An annual prize of £150 to reward a BSc, MSc or PhD student of any UK University or Research Institution who has shown outstanding performance in the area of quantitative or population genetics.
www.genetics.org.uk/page/2716/Sir-Kenneth-Mather-Memorial-Prize.html

Institute of Biomedical Sciences President's Prize
Open to: Undergraduates
The Institute of Biomedical Science sponsors an annual prize for one student graduating from each university offering an Institute accredited BSc (Hons) degree programme in biomedical science.
www.ibms.org/go/ibms:prizes:awards:presidents-prize

Institute of Horticulture Aberconway Medal
Open to: Under 30's
Medal and £500 Prize awarded annually for best dissertation by students or horticulturists under the age of 30.
www.horticulture.org.uk/about/awards_and_prizes.asp

Institute of Horticulture College Prizes
One year free Institute of Horticulture membership to students nominated by participating horticultural colleges
www.horticulture.org.uk/about/awards_and_prizes.asp

Institute of Zoology Charles Darwin Award and Marsh Prize
Open to: Undergraduates
Awarded annually for an outstanding zoological project carried out and written by an undergraduate, the Award is open to undergraduate students attending a university of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
www.zsl.org/science/scientific-awards/the-charles-darwin-award,203,AR.html
Linnean Society Irene Manton Prize
Open to: Postgraduates
The Irene Manton Prize is awarded for the best thesis in botany examined for a doctorate of philosophy during a single academic year (September to August). It is open to candidates whose research has been carried out whilst registered at any institution in the United Kingdom. Theses on the full range of plant sciences are eligible. Nominations are received from the Head of Department or the supervisor of the candidate.
www.linnean.org/index.php?id=341

The Thomas Henry Huxley Award and Marsh Prize
Open to: Postgraduates
Awarded annually for original work in zoology. Open to postgraduate research students attending a university of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the basis of original work, which has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
www.zsl.org/science/scientific-awards/the-thomas-henry-huxley-award,205,AR.html

OUP Achievement in Biosciences Prize
Open to: Undergraduates
Students are nominated by their department and the prize is awarded to the student who has achieved the most or shown the greatest improvement over the course of the academic year.
www.oup.co.uk/academic/highereducation/biosciences/bioscienceprize/

Royal Agricultural Society of England Student Agriculture Award
Open to: Undergraduates
The Student Agricultural Award is an annual prize awarded to the best agricultural student nominated by each college or university signed up to the scheme. Students are awarded five years free membership of the Society.
www.rase.org.uk/activities/awards/student_agriculture_award/index.asp

Society for Endocrinology Undergraduate Achievement Award
The Society for Endocrinology Undergraduate Achievement Awards have been established to encourage excellence in the study of endocrinology by undergraduate students. Departments are invited to submit applications to the Society for an award to outstanding undergraduates. The award will consist of a £300/yr grant to the department (for three years), and a certificate from the Society to the award winner.
www.endocrinology.org/grants/prize_undergraduateachievement.html

Society for General Microbiology Undergraduate Microbiology Prizes
The prizes aim to encourage excellence in the study of microbiology by undergraduate students and to promote scholarship in, and awareness of, microbiology in universities. A prize will be awarded annually to the undergraduate student in each qualifying institution who performs best in microbiology in their second year of full time study (or part time equivalent) for a Bachelor’s degree.
www.sgm.ac.uk/grants/ugpz.cfm
Society of Biology Science Communication Award – New Researcher
Open to: Postgraduates
The Science Communication Awards, sponsored by Pfizer, recognise research-active bioscientists from UK universities or institutes who make an outstanding and consistent contribution to communicating science to the public the award is open to bioscience researchers currently reading for a Masters or PhD, or in the first year of a post-doctoral position
www.societyofbiology.org/newsandevents/scicomm

Society of Biology Top Bioscience Student Award
Open to: Undergraduates
Students are nominated by their department for this award.
www.societyofbiology.org/education/competitions/topstudentaward

The Science Engineering and Technology Student of the Year Award
Open to: Undergraduates
The competition is open to students who, at the time of entry, are on a first-degree course at a university located within Europe (students do not have to be in the final year of their course to be entered). There are categories for: Biology & Biotechnology; Environment & Earth Science; Food Science, Technology & Nutrition; and Pharmacology students.
http://eu.setawards.org/index.vc